

the shadow of manual labor. Pete went on to graduate from St. John's University where he earned a B.S. degree at the University of Notre Dame where he received an M.B.A. degree. His fiancée Anna Christine is a native Oregonian who received her B.S. and M.A. degrees from George Fox University and is currently a sales director.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing this great couple many years of health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO ALABAMA MISSIONARY DR. MARTHA C. MYERS

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the service and memory of a great American and a remarkable citizen of my State of Alabama, Dr. Martha C. Myers.

On December 30, Dr. Myers and two others, William E. Koehn of Texas and Kathleen A. Gariety of Wisconsin, lost their lives in a terror attack aimed at them simply because they were American missionaries. All three were in Jibla, Yemen serving in a hospital for the poor run by the Southern Baptist Church.

Like her colleagues, Dr. Myers was thoroughly devoted to serving the Lord and believed that her life should be spent doing His work regardless of personal risk. She loved treating and caring for the poor and labored in Yemen for 24 years before she lost her life.

Americans and Christians are both a rarity in that remote Arab nation which has long been known for its lawlessness. Dr. Myers knew the danger that awaited her each day while serving in Yemen and yet she looked forward to her work as each day brought her closer to the Lord.

Last weekend, a large memorial service was held at her home church, Dalraida Baptist, in Montgomery in my congressional district. So many family, friends and fellow Alabamians turned out to honor the testimony of this remarkable Christian. Perhaps the most striking example of Dr. Myer's walk for Christ was the attendance of Yemenis at another memorial service held for her last week in Jibla, a place she loved so much that she chose to be buried there.

The Alabama Baptist newspaper reported that no less than 40,000 gathered at the missionary hospital and lined the street to pay their respects for Dr. Myers and her colleagues. "In a country where professing faith in Jesus Christ could result in death, mourners sang 'He is Lord' in Arabic and recited the Lord's Prayer," the paper wrote.

Our prayers go out to the families of Dr. Myers and her colleagues who died in service to their fellow man. They are a powerful example of true courage and sacrifice no matter what the cost to themselves.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CENTENNIAL OF THE NATION'S OLDEST MULTI-PURPOSE RECLAMATION PROJECT: THE SALT RIVER PROJECT

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, a little more than halfway through our nation's history, when the West was still an untamed region full of untapped potential, central Arizona's early settlers embarked on what has become a hallmark of American vision, boldness and success. The story is that of the Salt River Project, the nation's third largest public power provider, the largest supplier of water to the greater Phoenix metropolitan area and the oldest multi-purpose reclamation project in the U.S.

Incorporated on February 7, 1903, the Salt River Project, more commonly known as SRP, deserves special commendation in its centennial year for the prominent role it has played in central Arizona's growth and development. Its place in Arizona's history prompted me and my colleague, Congressman JOHN SHADEGG, to nominate SRP for inclusion in the Library of Congress's Bicentennial Local Legacies Project.

Before SRP was formed, pioneers of the area that now encompasses large parts of my own Congressional District 5 saw opportunity in the desert region they had settled. Farming, commerce and trade were beginning to boom. But the region's main source of water, the Salt River, proved fickle and dangerous.

To preserve themselves, their families and their future, the pioneers banded together to secure a reliable water supply. They envisioned a great dam in the Salt River Canyon east of Phoenix and, though the idea may have seemed fanciful to some, it won the support of President Theodore Roosevelt.

With passage of the National Reclamation Act of 1902, the foundation was laid for formation in 1903 of the Salt River Valley Water Users Association, a non-profit entity that later became the Salt River Project. Local farms were offered as collateral to secure a federal loan for construction of a stone masonry dam on the Salt River. When the dam was completed in 1911, it was rightly named Roosevelt Dam after the president whose visionary reclamation concepts helped settlers of Arizona and other Western states forge progress and prosperity.

Today, SRP has more than 780,000 electric power customers, shares ownership of power plants in four states, participates actively in power transmission decisions across the West, and manages six dams on the Salt and Verde rivers and thousands of miles of canals and laterals that deliver more than 40 percent of the region's water supply.

Among utilities nationally, SRP is recognized for its customer service, employee-community involvement, corporate giving and environmental leadership.

There can be no doubt that SRP will continue to be a major force in meeting Arizona's water and power needs, and an invaluable partner to the communities it serves. With pride, Mr. Speaker, I salute the Salt River Project on its 100th anniversary.

A BILL TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE THE BENEFITS PROVIDED TO SMALL BUSINESSES UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTION 179

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with President Bush in his call to assist our Nation's small businesses by introducing the "Small Business Expensing Improvement Act of 2003." This legislation will encourage new business investment and expansion, and I am pleased to be joined in this effort by several of my colleagues on the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee.

Small businesses truly are the backbone of our economy, representing more than half of all jobs and economic output. We should not take small business vitality for granted, however. Rather, our tax laws should support small businesses in their role as the engines of innovation, growth, and job creation.

Earlier today, President Bush unveiled his economic growth proposal. I applaud the President for his commitment to our Nation's small business owners and his dedication to ensure that our tax laws do not impede the growth and development of small businesses. The legislation we are introducing today will implement a key element of the President's plan, expansion of the benefits available to small businesses under Internal Revenue Code Section 179.

Our bill will improve our tax laws to make it easier for small businesses to make the crucial investments in new equipment necessary for continued prosperity. Under Code Section 179, a small business is allowed to expense the first \$25,000 in new business investment in a year. Following the President's lead, our legislation will permanently increase this amount to \$75,000. Furthermore, our bill will index this amount to ensure that the value of this provision is not eroded over time.

This legislation will also allow more small businesses to take advantage of expensing by increasing from \$200,000 to \$325,000 the total amount a business may invest in a year and qualify for Section 179. It is important to note that this amount has not been adjusted for inflation since the provision was enacted into law in 1986.

Mr. Speaker, in times of economic uncertainty, we must do all we can to encourage new investment and job creation. The "Small Business Expensing Improvement Act of 2003" will help accomplish this worthy goal. I applaud President Bush for his leadership on this issue, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this much-needed legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN WAYNE OWENS OF UTAH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I join my distinguished colleague from Utah, Mr. MATHESON,